KABUL - The top U.S. diplomat in Kabul Ross Wilson met with the former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and political leader Usdat Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf in Kabul. “I appreciated the opportunity to discuss with Dr Karzai and Usdat Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf the importance of moving forward to implement the May 17 agreement they helped negotiate between President Ghani (Habibullah) and Dr Abdullah,” Wilson, the U.S. Charge d’Affaires said in a Twitter post. He also added “We urge this country’s leaders promptly to establish the new government, create the Council for National Reconciliation, complete the exchange of prisoners, and move to the opening of intra-Afghan negotiations.”

The Afghan people have made clear their impatience. Start intra-Afghan negotiations now so that discussions on a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire can begin,” the United States Chargé d’Affaires, Ross Wilson, said in a Twitter thread.

He also called on the Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and his power-sharing partner Dr. Abdullah Abdullah to implement the agreement they struck earlier on May 29. “We urge the country’s leaders promptly to establish the new government, create the High Council for National Reconciliation, complete the exchange of prisoners, and move to the opening of intra-Afghan negotiations,” Mr. Wilson said. The peace talks, however, remained stalled due to a delay in fulfilling a precondition of the direct talks between Afghans—which was a complete release of prisoners. The Taliban has claimed that under the February’s peace deal, it has released roughly 800 prisoners of the Afghan government so far whereas the Afghan government announced nearly 500 of the inmates were from the Afghan forces–the rest were all civilians. On the other hand, the Afghan government, as per reports, has so far released nearly 4,400 of the insurgent group’s captives. But it insists it won’t release those prisoners of the group who were behind serious crimes.

Karzai Met with Abdullah to Discuss Ongoing Efforts Aimed at Bolstering Peace Process

KABUL - The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai met with Abdullah Abdullah, the Chairman of the High Peace Council, to discuss ongoing efforts aimed at bolstering the peace process. The Office of the Former President in a statement said Karzai met with Abdullah on Sunday. The statement further added that the two side discussed ongoing efforts aimed at supporting the process, including the further implementation of prisoners exchange, immediate launch of peace talks and implementation of peace agreements. The U.S. and Taliban representatives signed a peace deal late in February this year with the release of prisoners being one of the key points for the launch of intra-Afghan talks. Both... (More on P4)...(2)

Abdullah Criticized for Not Appointing Council Members

KABUL - Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, was once again criticized for delays in completing the formation of the council that has been formed and the peace talks in the country. The council was created two months after Abdullah signed the political agreement with President Ashraf Ghani. The council should have five members - two of whom are Abdullah’s naming mates from his election campaign, but three others have yet to be appointed. “His position will not get a legal shape as head of the High Council for National Reconciliation if Dr. Abdullah is not interested in forming the council,” said Argh Shahpoor, a lawyer. “The salary that is paid to him (Abdullah) is not observed completely...” (More on P4)...(2)

Top U.S. Diplomat in Kabul Met with Karzai and Sayyaf

KABUL - The former President of the High Peace Council, Abdullah Abdullah, on Sunday met with President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah. “We urged this country’s leaders promptly to implement the May 17 agreement they helped negotiate between President Ghani (Habibullah) and Dr Abdullah,” Wilson, the U.S. Charge d’Affaires said in a Twitter post. He also added “We urge this country’s leaders promptly to establish the new government, create the Council for National Reconciliation, complete the exchange of prisoners, and move to the opening of intra-Afghan negotiations.”

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U.S. Urges for Start of Intra-Afghan Talks

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KABUL - The Afghan government has objected to an American plan for opening borders with Afghan officials reportedly saying that it is unsafe for people to travel to the country. They said that the borders should close to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The officials added that the borders should remain closed until a vaccine is available. They also urged the United States to work with the Taliban to reach a peace agreement. However, the US government has not committed to any such agreement.

The officials further said that opening the borders would only lead to an increase in the number of cases of the coronavirus. They added that the borders should remain closed until the situation improves. They also urged the US government to consider the safety of its citizens when making decisions about borders.

Quetta: Business Leaders Call for Opening of Durand Line

Quetta: Business leaders have called for the opening of the Durand Line. They said that the closure of the border has led to a significant decrease in trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. They added that the closure has also led to a decrease in employment opportunities.

The leaders further said that the closure of the border has led to a decrease in the value of the currency. They added that the closure has also led to a decrease in the value of the stock market.

The leaders urged the government to open the border as soon as possible. They added that the closure has led to a decrease in the value of the economy.

WJ Refers 4 Officials to AGO in Embassy Wall Corruption Case

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga's (Navya) Justice Commission, led by parliamentarian Matiullah Azmi, has referred four people, including two presidential advisors and Afghanistan's ambassador to the US, to the Attorney General's office (AGO) in connection to corruption allegations in the recent embassy wall case in Washington DC.

The Commission also demanded to put the names of accused officials on Exit Control List and arrest those outside the country's location of support in terms.

In an official letter No. 139, July 30, 2020 of Wolesi Jirga's Justice Commission a copy of which available with Pakistan Afghan News says after hearing his officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the reconstruction of embassy wall in which massive corruption took place a decision was reached that a special unit be formed for this purpose.

In the letter explained that based on financier's (Baqir Mirza, Hameyran Qureshi, presidential advisor) findings secretary general Advisor Yama Nizam and Afghanistan's Ambassador to the US Roya Rahmani should be referred to the AGO for more investigation.

The more above mentioned individual officials if present in the country should be put on Exit Control List and relevant action should be taken against it. (More on Page 4-5)

Kabul Objects to Informal Upcoming Doha Huddle

Kabul - The Afghan government has objected to an informal meeting between Afghan officials and representatives from Qatar. The officials said that the meeting should have been formally invited.

The officials further said that the Afghan government has not been formally invited to any such meetings. They added that the government is not aware of any such meetings.

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The Complexities and Challenges of the Afghan Peace Process
By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

The war in Afghanistan was not just about extracting a peace agreement from the Taliban that they would not accept. The Afghans' rights and constitutional principles of Afghan people not only are threatened in this war. The US negotiators should have discussed the human rights issues with the Taliban to reach an agreement without any harm to human rights and Afghanistan's interests.

The voice of Afghan men and women regarding their rights to negotiate for peace and security in their country is the key to the success of the intra-Afghan talks. Afghanistan's international allies have to protect the voice of Afghan men and women to reach a peace agreement.

The recent escalation of war and violence in Afghanistan has not only concerned the people of Afghanistan but also the international community and international organizations. Recently, the United nation mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported on the increase of attacks on civil society members. As media report, quoted UNAMA officials said, "there were destroyers who are not in the favor of peace."

Zalmay Khalilzad also said through a series of tweets that the government had some internal and external destroyers to interrupt or delay the peace process in the country. The main challenge is that the Taliban have been fighting for the past 18 years to secure their interests. Therefore, the Afghan government has to be cautious about the Taliban's destructive behavior.

The Afghan government needs to be selective about the Taliban's claims and promises and ensure that the peace process will not become another venture to benefit from the war.

The Afghan government should also be cautious about the US strategy to withdraw from Afghanistan. The US strategy is not only about ending the war but also about securing its interests in the region.

The Afghan government should also be wary of the US's intentions to establish an Islamic Emirate on the ruins of the Islamic Republic. This view is popular among the Taliban and even as a democrat factor for the United States. The Afghan government cannot give a positive response to the violence reduction demand.

At the international level, there are different analyses about the peace process in Afghanistan. Some analysts believe that any agreement that does not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.

Mukhammad Zahir Akbari is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com.
Turkmenistan Participate in Caspian Media Forum

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan will participate in the Second Caspian Media Forum to be held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The previous Caspian Media Forum took place in 2012, and this year’s forum is expected to attract the participation of journalists and media representatives from all five Caspian States.

In addition to the Caspian Volunteering School with the theme “Volunteering for Peace”, there will be a separate section for professional and environmental trainings to be held. The scope of the Caspian Media Forum includes the region of Russia, and journalists from Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan will participate in it.

The 7th Caspian Media Forum was also held in Astana and was attended by international guests and local media representatives.

In the 1st Caspian media forum held in Astana, the theme was “The role of the media in promoting peace and security in the region”.

1. Top US officials discuss the ongoing violence in the country. The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has warned that the Taliban must prove their commitment to helping the peace process. He met with the Taliban leaders in Qatar to discuss the ongoing violence in Afghanistan. Blinken emphasized the importance of the Taliban fulfilling their commitments to the peace process.

2. The Taliban have confirmed that they will continue to participate in the political process. Despite the ongoing violence, the Taliban have said that they are committed to the peace process and are willing to continue to participate in the political dialogue.

3. The Afghan government and Taliban have so far released hundreds of prisoners to help the peace process. However, the Taliban have been accused of not allowing the media to cover the progress of the negotiations.

4. Afghan government officials have reiterated their commitment to ensuring media freedom and access to information. They have emphasized the importance of the media in promoting transparency and accountability in the peace process.

5. Afghanistan is facing many challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. The government is working towards addressing these issues through reform and development programs.

6. The Afghanistan government has announced a new policy to promote media freedom. The policy aims to ensure that the media can operate freely and without interference from the government.

7. The Taliban have been accused of using edged weapons on horseback. The violence has escalated, and the Taliban have been using various tactics to disrupt the peace process.

8. The National Kankor Examination Authorization (NKEA) has announced the results of the National Kankor Examination. The results were released on Wednesday, and students can check their results online.

9. The Taliban have continued their attacks in Afghanistan, resulting in the deaths of several civilians and security personnel. The attacks have been carried out using rockets and bombs.

10. The Women's Rights and Freedom Council (WRC) has condemned the violence against women in Afghanistan. They have called for the international community to take action to protect the rights of women.

11. The Taliban have been accused of using rockets and bombs against civilians and security personnel. The attacks have been carried out in various parts of Afghanistan.

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Kazakhstan Ups Import of Morales-Made Goods

NUR-SULTAN - The value of trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Morales amounted to $58.6 million over the first four months of 2020 compared to $51.4 million during the same period of 2019, according to Kazakhstan's National Bank.

New Delhi - The central dome of a 200-year-old mosque in the Indian capital, New Delhi, has collapsed due to the massive rains. The dead sandstone Mamluk era mosque, built in 1621, was among some of the iconic heritage sites in the historic old city.

BRUSSELS - Signs emerged Monday that weary diplomatic efforts to redeem themselves from the crisis that has resurfaced, pitting competing demands of north and south of Europe.

RYAD - Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz has opted to designate the activities of Falun Dafa Association (UK), the Falun Dafa Association (UK), “the unrighteous organization,” as undesirable in Russia.

EU Leaders: Court Signs Against Moscow on P4... (18)

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UK Signs Up for 90m Coronavirus Vaccine Doses: Live Updates

LONDON - British officials have signed a deal to buy 90 million doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine as a result of a rapid deal led by the British government.

UAE Launches Arab World's First Mars Probe, Establishes Communication with Rover

The UAE has successfully launched a rocket carrying a Mars orbiter from a site in Japan. The probe, which will monitor the atmosphere of the Red Planet, is the Arab world’s first interplanetary mission.

One US, 6 U.S. NGOs Designated Undesirable in Russia

MOSCOW - Seven foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs), six U.S. and one U.K. NGO, have been designated as undesirable in Russia following inspections carried out by the Russian Prosecutor General’s Office.

China Warns US to Avoid ‘Further Down the Wrong Path’ as Khabarovsk Crisis Over Expected Extrajudicial detention

BEIJING - China has warned the US again against extrajudicial detention of people and suspects in Khabarovsk, Russia.

Iran Executives Mask Convicted of Spying for US and Israel

TEHRAN - Iran’s judiciary announced the execution of a man convicted of “espionage” for United States and Israel.

One Region, One Health: Preparing Central Asia for Future Pandemics

Uzbekistan reported 135,008 new cases and 577 new deaths in the country on Monday. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the association’s members said that community-based initiatives are needed to reach the remaining 10% of unvaccinated children and adults. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF announced a plan to deliver 2.4 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021.
KABUL - Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission has recorded 37 targeted and suicide attacks on worshipers, imams of mosques and worshipers over the last nine months in which 170 people have lost their lives.

Four children are also among those killed in the attacks, according to the commission. The report of the watchdog shows that 272 others were wounded in these attacks that the organization blames Taliban, Daesh and other militant groups.

KUNAR - Pakistan military fired 29 rockets in Afghanistan's Kunar province over the past 24 hours, an official said on Monday.

The rockets hit Nishand district, aliqu Khan Mumtaz, the provincial governor's spokesman, told 1TV. He said that no casualties happened in the shelling, but it caused property damage to local residents. He said that the incident was causing tension among residents preparing to respond to the shelling.

The shelling days after at least six civilians were killed in shelling by Pakistan military in Kunar province.

KABUL - Afghan border agencies have received COVID-19 medical supplies and protective equipment from the financial support of the European Union.

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), an international organization, has provided infrared thermometers, N95 masks and PPE gloves, goggles and sanitation supplies, "thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union," ICMPD said in a statement.

The equipment will be used at border crossing points by the Afghan General Directorate of Border and Connectivity. In particular, it will allow the well-managed movement of people and goods across borders is necessary to respond to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement said.

Our support to Afghan border agencies is key to the commitment to strengthen Afghanistan’s border management and connectivity. In particular, this financial contribution comes in addition to the 146 million Euros that the EU has already committed to Afghanistan in its fight against COVID-19, said Anne Green, EU ambassador to Afghanistan.

PAKTIKA - A number of tents-pegging participants in Paktika province are urging local governments to build precisely-specified grounds for them to play the game, which is an ancient cavalry exercise in which a mounted participant with a sword or lance approaches ground targets 100 meters-away.

"We hold these games a lot these days and we also play on natural days, Eid days and New Year, so we need separate grounds," Sharbat Khan, a participant.

Details of people killed and injured in attacks on worshipers, imams of mosques and worshipers

Pakistan Resumes Shelling of Afghanistan’s Kunar

PAKTIKA - Tents-pegging competitions and tent-pegging sports have been played in the province for some years ago—and now a large number of young people have turned up to the sport.

Tent-pegging is a long history in Afghanistan and the game has many fans – particularly in the eastern provinces.

Every Friday residents of Paktika province participate in tent-pegging competitions.

Players say that the game is played in different ways and in groups of 10 to 12 people. The open game of tents-pegging has a mounted horseman riding at a gallop and using a sword or a lance to pierce, pick up, and carry away a small ground target or a series of small ground targets. "The price of horses for this game ranges from six hundred thousand to two million dollars," said Yar Mohammad Mirwais, another player.

Residents of Paktika province say that the people of this province have been playing the game since ancient times, and now almost every single one is holding competitions on national and local level. The participation of people is continuously increasing.

"Our ancestors were so enthusiastic about this game that they made all the equipment for this sport from silver," said Razi Mohammadi, a player.

The tent-pegging competitions are aimed to give (50%)

Zimbabwe Appeals to Government to Allow Afghan T20 Tour to Go Ahead

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) is still hoping to host Afghanistan in the future in a five-match Twenty20 International series despite ongoing concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to news reports on Tuesday, the country’s national cricket board has been given permission to proceed with the tour after the government finally gave the green light.

"We are happy to announce that the government has given the green light for the tour," said ICVRZ chief executive officer.

The proposed tour comes amid a spike in community infections in Zimbabwe and tighter control measures by the government to contain the spread of the virus.

"We have agreed with Afghanistan to proceed with the tour which we both committed to prior to the lock down. However, the tour can only happen if approved by the government and we have since written to the authorities asking for permission to host the event," said Majongwa. However, local media reports indicate that Zimbabwe's cricket governing body faces a tough challenge to get approval for the series to go ahead.

Last week, the Zimbabwe government imposed it would be tight-ening lockdown restrictions in response to a spike in infections which had exceeded 1,600 on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the ACB said in a statement last week that national team players had started training last month in preparation for future international engagements.

The ACB also said that all national players had been tested for COVID-19 and were tested negative. (ATN)